

1 June 1956

Executive Registry

5, 3380

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Mr. Lee Cherns, Meeting with the DCI on 31 May 1956

1. Mr. Lee Cherns is Executive Director, Research Institute of America, and an official of the International Rescue Committee. He was chairman of the "Danevan Emergency Commission" which IRC activated to focus attention upon communist redefection campaigns. The meeting with DCI was arranged at Mr. Cherns's request to report on "redefection".

2. In line with his belief that emergency measures are needed to counter redefection activities in the USA, Mr. Cherns reported that IRC has set up a special 24-hour-a-day telephone service in the New York City area offering to counsel any refugees who fear repatriation activity. Mr. Cherns plans to extend this project into Connecticut with the cooperation of local police and civic groups.

3. Mr. Cherns reported great difficulty in soliciting funds for IRC from private sources, due to public apathy and related to the growing detente. He advised that funds from projects under the State/U.S. Escapes Program do not cover IRC countering the "redefection" campaign in the U.S.A. In response to an observation by the DCI, Mr. Cherns indicated that Tolstoy Foundation, like IRC, may be confronted with the same problem: no established congregation of givers.

4. Mr. Cherns indicated hope for DCI interest in the following matters: (a) the entry into the USA of Gneslaw Milens, a former Polish Cultural Attaché who defected in Paris several years ago and, according to Mr. Cherns, is now a top "redefection" target; (b) support for IRC projects covering refugees in Vietnam, which are now under consideration in RCA and USIA; and (c) pressure upon Congress to obtain adoption of the President's recommended amendments to the McCarran-Walter Act.

5. The matters proposed by Mr. Cherns for the Director's attention, such as the funding for countering "redefection" from the U.S.A. and action in the [redacted] appear to require special staff study before any action is taken. Copies of this memorandum are therefore made available to the appropriate Glandstone Services elements and the Legislative Liaison Officer for consideration.

Distribution:

Orig - DCI

1 - Leg. Liaison

1 - G/ER
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1 June 1956

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Legislative Liaison

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